

## **Federal Oceanographic Facilities Committee Charter**

### CHARTER/TERMS OF REFERENCE of the FEDERAL OCEANOGRAPHIC FACILITIES COMMITTEE

#### A. Official Designation

This Committee will be officially designated the Federal Oceanographic Facilities Committee (referred to hereinafter as FOFC).

#### B. Objectives and Scope of Activity

The FOFC shall advise the NORLC on policies, procedures, and plans relating to oceanographic facility use, upgrades and investments. It will also provide guidance on matters relating to national oceanographic asset requirements as well as other responsibilities that the Council considers appropriate.

The facilities under consideration will include, but are not limited to major federal assets, such as; oceanographic ships, submersibles, ROVs, AUVs, and maritime research aircraft. FOFC will also provide guidance, input, and direction as necessary for other systems used in ocean observations such as moorings, drifters, observatories and their impact on the utilization and mix of federal facilities.

#### C. Membership

The FOFC is composed of representation from the NOPP agencies that manage federal oceanographic facilities. FOFC members are the senior agency officials who are responsible for oceanographic facilities policy and management.

The Chairperson of the FOFC will be selected on a rotating basis for a 2-year term from the federal agencies that fund or operate major oceanographic facilities: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of the Navy, and the National Science Foundation (NSF). The Executive Secretary will be provided by the agency of the Chairperson.

FOFC may interact with and receive ad hoc advice from various private sector groups as consistent with federal regulations. Non-voting representatives from the University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System (UNOLS) or other oceanographic organizations may also be invited to attend Committee meetings.

D. Description of Duties for Which the Federal Oceanographic Facilities Committee is Responsible

1. Advise the NORLC and the ORAP on policies and procedures relating to facility development, use, and mix from a national perspective.
2. Advise the Council and ORAP on issues dealing with oceanographic facilities, such as;
  - a. Review the operations, management methods, and capabilities of federal oceanographic facilities and, when appropriate, recommend common standards and approaches to assist federal oceanographic facility managers;
  - b. Improve planning, coordination, and communication among federal oceanographic facility managers;
  - c. Address interagency programmatic and operation questions of facilities management;
  - d. Provide a forum for the exchange of information on long-range plans regarding the construction, deactivation or chartering of oceanographic vessels; and,
  - e. Monitor international oceanographic facility activities for potential application to the federal facility mix.
3. Any additional responsibilities that the NORLC considers appropriate;

E. Number and Frequency of Committee Meetings

The FOFC shall meet at least twice a year on dates agreeable for the majority of members. The FOFC may establish sub-committees composed of less than the full membership of the FOFC for purpose of carrying out the Committee's duties, subject to the review and control of the Committee. The Executive Secretary of the FOFC prepares minutes of the meeting and distributes to members with a copy to the NOPP IWG.

F. Termination Date

None (Continuing).